

This document stands as a testament to Tom's life and legacy, which so profoundly touched the lives of so many people. I pray his family finds comfort and peace, knowing they will be reunited with him again one day in the heavenly mansion in which he now resides with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
LOURDES E. "ALFIE" ALVARADO-RAMOS

**HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 25, 2023*

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lourdes Alvarado-Ramos, also known as Alfie. After a career that has spanned over 52 years of distinguished service in the military and public service, Alfie will retire from her role as Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs at the end of this month. I wish to recognize her enormous contributions to the lives of servicemembers and veterans and to express our nation's gratitude for her enduring service.

Born in Puerto Rico, Alfie enlisted in the United States Army in 1971. She would rise to the rank of Troop Command Sergeant Major overseeing the Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis. Upon her retirement from military service in 1993, Alfie continued her commitment to service with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and has served as the Director of WDVA for the last decade. Before then, she served as Superintendent for the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting and the Washington Veterans Home and was the Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Operations for the agency at large.

Under Alfie's leadership, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs has been recognized as the leading state veteran's affairs department in the nation, offering the largest portfolio of services. These programs include suicide prevention, clinical counseling, military spouse community integration, peer support, transitional housing, apprenticeships, long-term care, and services for women and LGBTQ+ veterans.

For her service to the veteran community in Washington State and our nation at large, Alfie has received the Army Legion of Merit Medal and the Military Order of Medical Merit. She has also received state and national awards that include the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Leadership Award. She presently serves as an executive member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of State Veterans Homes.

Mr. Speaker, Lourdes Alvarado-Ramos exemplifies a devotion to public service and a commitment to providing exceptional public service to veterans at the highest level. Through her career, Alfie has broken barriers and empowered the next generation of soldiers, especially women, to lead at the highest levels of military and public service. I am proud to recognize Director Alvarado-Ramos.

HONORING NORA MANELLA UPON  
HER RETIREMENT

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 25, 2023*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Nora Margaret Manella, who will soon retire as Presiding Justice for the California Second District Court of Appeal, Division Four.

Justice Manella has held numerous highly esteemed positions over the course of her career ranging from being a complex civil litigator in private practice and a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles to being a U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California and U.S. District Judge.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Justice Manella received her Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College and her Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California Law School. She began her judicial career as a law clerk for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, before serving as a counsel to the Subcommittee on the Constitution in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. After some time in private practice, she returned to working for the government as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. I had the pleasure of being her colleague in that office when she led the appellate division. Her sparkling intellect, quick wit, expansive knowledge, analytical skills and brilliant oratory were legendary in the office. An accomplished lawyer in the courtroom as well, she prosecuted a wide variety of cases ranging from homicide to commodities fraud to international narcotics trafficking. She later served as a judge on the Los Angeles Municipal Court and Los Angeles Superior Court.

In 1994, former President Bill Clinton recognized her dedication and public service by nominating Judge Manella to be the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, where she oversaw an office of over 200 lawyers. During her time as U.S. Attorney, she was recognized by the National Law Journal as one of "The 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in the United States" and by the Daily Journal as one of "The 100 most Powerful Lawyers in California." After being nominated again by former President Clinton to be a U.S. District Judge, where she was unanimously approved by the United States Senate, she was named "Federal Judge of the Year" by Century City Bar Association, Criminal Section. In 2006 she was nominated by former Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Court of Appeal and in 2018 to her final position as Presiding Justice by former Governor Brown.

While her list of accomplishments is far longer than can be included here, it is clear that Justice Manella's expertise in the legal field and her devotion to serving and improving her nation is unmatched. She is a true role model and inspiration for all, but above all else, Nora is a fierce friend, with an everpresent smile and zeal for life that extends beyond the courtroom. She has been a trusted mentor to countless young people and women across the legal field in Southern California, service that will continue past her time on the bench.

The Honorable Nora Margaret Manella has been truly indispensable to not only Southern California, but to California and the Nation. Her public service will not only be remembered, but cherished. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking Justice Manella for over 4 decades of unwavering and exceptional public service.

RECOGNIZING CELIA GOULD

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 25, 2023*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the retiring director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and my close personal friend, Celia Gould. An Idaho native, third-generation cattle rancher, and dedicated public servant, Celia exemplifies Idaho's spirit and respect for agriculture.

Celia was born and raised in an Idaho ranching family, and used the generations of knowledge she gained growing up to run her own cattle operations as an adult. Always interested in public service, Celia served 16 years in the Idaho House of Representatives before becoming the first woman to lead the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, a position she held for another 16 years. She saw the Department through the 2008 recession, during which she kept Idaho agriculture as the state's strongest industry, and is leaving her office with Idaho's agricultural exports worth over a billion dollars more per year than when she entered. As if her ranching and public service didn't keep her busy enough, Celia raised a wonderful family with her husband and former Idaho House Speaker Bruce Newcomb. I know she will do a great job implanting her long-held love for agriculture in her grandchildren.

I first got to know Celia personally while we were both serving in the Idaho House of Representatives, and she quickly became one of my and my wife Kathy's best friends. In my last term as Speaker of the House, Celia served as the chair of the House Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee. She was an effective legislator who I was always glad to have in my conference. Of course, in politics it is hard to always keep everyone happy. Bruce and I learned one cardinal rule of working with Celia Gould: never mess with her when she is wearing a red dress.

I join Celia's family and many friends and colleagues in congratulating her on an extraordinary career in public service and wishing her luck in her next chapter.

COMMEMORATING ARIANNE  
SLAY'S SERVICE TO THE CITY  
OF ANN ARBOR AND  
WASHTENAW COUNTY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 25, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Arianne Slay of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the occasion of her investiture as a judge of the 22nd Circuit Court of